

## **Iraqi Provisional Council Member Participants:**

### **DHI QAR**

**Hamida Ali Jaber:** Ms. Jaber is the Dhi Qar Provincial Council representative from ar-Refa'i, in the province's northern region. She is a member of the Human Rights, Health and Environment, and Public Relations Committees and is a strong leader in the community on these issues.

### **DIYALA**

**Iman Abdulwahhab Mahmood:** Ms Mahmood previously served as the director of Water for Khanan and continues to demonstrate laudable commitment and resourcefulness in her current role as a Provincial Council member. She is an ideal Chair of the Provincial Council's Public Services Committee – which is one of the key committees for improving local government accountability. She is an influential member of the Council, as well as a strong, independent, and creative thinker.

**Nisrin Bahjat Mohammad:** Ms. Mohammad is Chair of the Women and Children Committee. She is a dynamic and dedicated member of the Provincial Council. With a background in social work and education in Khanaqin, she remains committed to addressing issues facing Diyala's vulnerable populations, including women, children, and the handicapped.

### **NAJAF**

**Jenan Ghani Saeed al-Baghdadi:** Ms. Al-Baghdadi was raised in a highly educated family in Basrah and is the spouse of the Vice President of Kufa University. She is very active in women's issues and became a Provincial Council member in the last election. She is fearless in speaking her mind in any forum.

### **MAYSAN**

**Fatin Akram Khuthair:** Ms. Khuthair is the Chair of the Maysan Committee for Women and the most active of the committee's members. She also sits on the Provincial Council committee for health and the environment and the committee for human rights. She is originally a teacher and has generations-long ties to Maysan. In addition to teaching, Ms. Khuthair is the director of the Juharat Al Rafdean NGO, an organization that serves thousands of widows in Maysan. The staff is composed mainly of female volunteers (many of whom are widows themselves) and they have a large presence throughout the province.

### **SALAH AD DIN**

**Ali Fatin Abed al Quader Lateef Abed:** She is a dynamic political and social figure in Salah ad Din. She currently serves as a member of Salah ad Din's Provincial Council, and is originally from Tikrit. She started her political career in city politics in Tikrit, serving on the local council.

Yet, her most significant activities have taken place outside of the political realm. She established the Tikrit Orphanage and runs a prominent NGO for women and children.

### **KIRKUK**

**Hala Nooradin:** She is one of the more active female council members out of 13 total members in this province. Given her diverse background, she demonstrates objective and fair insight when dealing with ethnic based political issues and others on the Provincial Council. Additionally, Hala's law degree and excellent legal reputation has resulted in her being appointed to serve as the head of the Provincial Council Legal Committee, along with being a member of the Provincial Council Women's and Children's Initiatives Committee. Outside of her work for the Provincial Council, Hala works for the Taza branch of the Commission for Resolving Real Property Disputes (CRRPD) and actively participates in the joint U.S. Force (USF)-Arab Bloc Detainee Release and Reintegration Program. This program has resulted in the successful release and reintegration of over 200 detainees from USF custody since February 2009 in accordance with the Security Agreement.

**Zhala Nafitchi:** She is a Turkmen, and a member of the Legal Committee, for which she has travelled extensively to try to verify rumors of Turkman detainees being held in prisons by the Kurdistan Regional Government. Ms. Nafitchi received a degree in Political Science from Baghdad University, and uses this to good effect on the Provincial Council Coordination Committee, where she strongly advocates Turkman positions on issues of importance, such as Article 23, hiring within Kirkuk Province, and other issues which cross multiple disciplines. She has been discussed as a strong possibility to take the position of Provincial Council Chair if the Article 23 normalization process is implemented, making her an important target for USG exchange and cooperation.

**Layla Hassan (\*note: she campaigned for a seat in the recent elections held on March 7<sup>th</sup>):** She is a Kurdish PUK member of the Kirkuk Provincial Council, and a member of the Education Committee. She is a graduate of the Kirkuk Technical Institute, and worked as a secondary school teacher within Kirkuk City. She has continued to advance her education, including teaching herself to speak English. She was added to the Kirkuk Provincial Council in 2006, to fill the vacancy created when Abdul Rachman Mustafa was elected Governor by the Council. She has worked to bring educational projects to her neighborhood, which she sees as an example of her ability to deliver for her constituents.

### **Baghdad**

**Nawal Sadiq Taqi Al A'araji:** Ms. Al A'araji is a member of the Economic and Essential Services committees. Her professional qualifications are as an accountant and she speaks fluent English. She is described by her colleagues as smart and hard working, with a knack for economic issues.

**Suhair Ghazi Naji Al Jobouri:** She serves as the Chair of the Transportation and Communications committee. She is a former secondary school principal and a graduate from

Mustansiriyah University in Mathematics. She is described by her colleagues as intelligent, good hearted and ambitious. Although not a member of the same political party as the Chairman of the Provincial Council, she works with him closely.

**Mahdiya AbdHassan Shati Al Lami:** Ms. Al Lami serves on several committees, including Civil Society, Human Rights, and Transportation. She is a biochemist and a teacher, who has been very involved in the local councils of Baghdad. She is active on the Iraqi National Literacy Committee and also serves on the Iraqi Strategic Women's Committee (ISWIC).

**Dr. Wihda Mahmood Fahad Al Gumaili:** She is a member of several committees, including Citizens Affairs, Construction, Economics, Essential Services and Strategic Planning. She is a veterinarian and a businesswoman, with a strong interest in women's issues. She is outspoken and described by her colleagues as assertive, smart and ambitious.

### **BASRA**

**Bushra Zebak:** Ms Zebak is a rising political leader in the community and will go out of her way to bring back programs that will benefit women and children. Her background is education and her husband is also well respected in the community.

**Natiqa Thamir:** Ms. Thamir focuses greatly on efforts to assist widows in Basra, which is a generally conservative region in Iraq. She is the Chair for the Basra Women, Family, and Children Committee.